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CONFIDENTIAL JULY 30

MUNITIONS FLIGHT

BEN DREW CALLED BRUBECK FROM FRANKFURT LATE THURSDAY NIGHT REGARDING LONDON SUNDAY TIMES INTEREST IN STORY. HE WAS TALKING IN PRESENCE OF TWO TIMES REPORTERS AND UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF TOO MANY DRINKS. THE CONVERSATION CONSISTED OF VAGUE REMARKS AND INNUENDO REGARDING WHETHER THE USG PREPARED TO HAVE STORY TOLD IN PRESS, CLEARLY INTENDED TO CONVEY TO REPORTERS USG COMPLICITY IN AFFAIR. BRUBECK TOLD DREW USG HAD ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION, THAT WHAT DREW TOLD REPORTERS WAS HIS RESPONSIBILITY, AND THAT TIMES HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN CLEAR STATEMENT OF USG POSITION. WHEN DREW THEN PUT TIMES REPORTER ON PHONE BRUBECK REPEATED SAME TO HIM.

IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION FRIDAY MORNING WITH TIMES REPORTER LONDON WHO HANDLING STORY BRUBECK REITERATED THAT IF, AFTER LISTENING TO DREW'S ALLEGATIONS, TIMES IN ANY DOUBT ABOUT USG POSITION TIMES SHOULD AGAIN TALK TO EMBOFFS, WHICH REPORTER WILL DO THIS AFTERNOON.

COMMENT: TIMES HAS FOUR REPORTERS WORKING FURIOUSLY, HERE AND ON CONTINENT AND WILL APPARENTLY HAVE FULL PAGE FEATURE STORY NEXT SUNDAY. ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN READING POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE INTO STORY TIMES REPORTERS THUS FAR SEEM CONVINCED USG NOT INVOLVED AND WE HOPEFUL STORY WILL NOT EXAGGERATE US ROLE.

BRUCE
BT

NOTE: PASSED WHITE HOUSE AT 9:27 A.M., 7-30-65.
ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 9:08 A.M., 7-30-65.

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